

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05339 190752Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 181759Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5339

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, CI

SUBJ: SPANISH REACTION TO EVENTS IN CHILE

1. SUMMARY. SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN SANTIAGO OFFICIALLY INFORMED NEW FONMIN SEP 15 OF GOS DECISION TO CONTINUE RELATIONSWITH NEW GOC. CHILEAN AMB IN MADRID HAS RESIGNED; MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ACTING AS CHARGE. SPANISH MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO CHILEAN EVENTS; MOST COMMENTARY HAS CHARACTERIZED ALLENDE AS SINCERE CHILEAN PATRIOT WHO TOOK WRONG ROAD AND FAILED IN HIS "SOCIALIST EXPERIMENT," PRIMARILY BECAUSE HE ALIENATED KEY SECTORS OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN OPINION, INCLUDING FOREIGN INVESTORS. CHURCH OFFICE, ITT OFFICE, AND FORD AGENCY IN BARCELONA AND CHILEAN AIRLINES OFFICE IN MADRID WERE OBJECT OF FIRE-BOMB ATTACKS OVER WEEKEND PRESUMABLY IN REACTION TO ALLENDE DOWNFALL.

2. MFA OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT SPAIN, THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR IN SANTIAGO, INFORMED NEW CHILEAN FONMIN SEPT 15 OF ITS DECISION TO CONTINUE RELATIONS WITH NEW GOC. SPAIN ALSO PROMISED TO SEND PLANELOAD OF
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05339 190752Z

MEDICINE AND FOOD.

3. MEANWHILE, CHILEAN AMBASSADOR IN MADRID, OSCAR AGUERO CORVALAN HAS INFORMED SPANISH FONMIN OF HIS RESIGNATION. THIRD-RANKING CHILEAN EMBASSY OFFICER, MARIANO FONTECILLA, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM SANTIAGO, OFFICIALLY ADVISED MFA THAT HE HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHARGE. CHILEAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR, NO. JORGE BURR VEYL, NO. 2 EMBASSY OFFICER UNDER EX-AMBASSADOR IS ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE IN TORREMOLINOS. CHARGE TOLD U.S. EMBOFF HE IS UNCERTAIN RE FUTURE EMBASSY PERSONNEL STAFFING BUT NEW AMBASSADOR MIGHT BE APPOINTED IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. LOCAL SPANISH MEDIA HAVE PROVIDED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN CHILE. PRESS COMMENTARY HAS GENERALLY PAINTED SYMPATHETIC PICTURE OF ALLENDE AS WELL-MEANING CHILEAN PATRIOT WHO TOOK THE WRONG ROAD, NOTING THAT "SOCIALIST EXPERIMENT" FAILED PRIMARILY BECAUSE HE WAS UNABLE TO RALLY KEY SECTORS OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN SUPPORT WHICH BECAME PROGRESSIVELY DISENCHANTED WITH DETERIORATING POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SITUATION. ALLENDE ALSO CREDITED WITH HAVING RESPECTED CONSTITUTIONAL LEGALITY, BUT CRITICIZED FOR ALLOWING FATAL POLARIZATION TO TAKE PLACE WITH SUCH TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES. ON SEP 17 WEEKLY JOURNAL, HOYA DEL LUNES, ONLY NEWSPAPER TO APPEAR MONDAY MORNING AND PUBLISHED BY SPANISH PRESS ASSOCIATION, AND SEVILLE PAPERS SEP 15 PUBLISHED PROMINENT BLACK-FRAMED OBITUARY ON ALLENDE WITH FOLLOWING TRIBUTE: "DIED IN DEFENSE OF CHILEAN CONSTITUTIONAL LEGALITY". EDITORIAL IN "PUEBLO" (SYNDICATES) SEP 15, REPRINTED IN SEMI-OFFICIAL "NUEVO DIARIO" TWO DAYS LATER, DENIED ANY RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN CHILEAN MILITARY COUP AND SPANISH ARMY'S UPRISING IN JULY 1936. APART FROM UNDERSCORING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPANISH ARMY AND SOUTH AMERICAN ARMIES (LATTER "FOR MOST PART LIBERAL"), EDITORIAL NOTES ABSENCE OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT IN SPANISH CIVIL WAR WHEREAS "IT WAS PROVEN THAT CONTINENTAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS HAD MUCH TO DO WITH INTERNAL CHILEAN AFFAIRS."

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC COMMENT BY SPANISH OFFICIALS ON CHILEAN EVENTS. HOWEVER, CHILEAN CHARGE TOLD EMBOFF
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MADRID 05339 190752Z

THAT SPANISH FONMIN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED TO HIM, ON PERSONAL BASIS, VIEW THAT PARALLEL COULD BE DRAWN BETWEEN CHILEAN MILITARY COUP AND SPANISH ARMY'S REVOLT IN 1936, ADDING THAT THEY WERE GRATIFIED BY ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW, THOUGH THEY REGRETTED THE BLOODSHED.

6. OFFICIAL PRESS AGENCY REPORTED THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE, CARRYING CHILEAN FLAGS AND POSTERS, DEMONSTRATED

IN BARCELONA SEP 14. EARLY SEP 15 A
FIRE-BOMB PARTIALLY DESTROYED A DOWNTOWN CHURCH OFFICE
IN BARCELONA; PERPETRATORS LEFT BEHIND FOLLOWING WALL
INSCRIPTION: "IN MEMORY OF ALLENDE." PRESS ALSO
REPORTED THAT FIRE-BOMB WAS THROWN AT ITT OFFICE IN
BARCELONA, AND CONGEN HAS ADVISED THAT FIRE-BOMB ALSO
THROWN AT FORD AGENCY. IN MADRID, LOCAL CHILEAN AIRLINES OFFICE
WAS PARTIALLY DAMAGED BY FIRE-BOMB SEP 14.

7. SPANISH POLICE HAVE ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE DOUBLED
FREQUENCY OF MOBILE PATROLS AROUND U.S. EMBASSY AND
REINSTATED GUARDS AT CONGEN'S HOME IN BARCELONA.

8. COMMENT: SPANISH PRESS HAS BEEN FOR THE MOST PART
BALANCED IN COVERAGE OF CHILEAN EVENTS. SOME PRESS
ORGANS HAVE BEEN SURPRISINGLY INDULGENT IN COMMENTARY
ABOUT ALLENDE THOUGH MOST HAVE EXPRESSED
GRATIFICATION THAT CHILE ESCAPED MARXIST EMBRACE. EMBASSY
HAS HEARD RUMOR THAT CARRERO BLANCO MAY TIGHTEN CONTROL
ON PRESS COMMENT RE: CHILE. IN ADDITION TO OPPOSITION CIRCLES,
SOME PRESS SPOKESMEN HAVE REFLECTED UNDERLYING SYMPATHETIC
ATTITUDE TOWARDS ALLENDE'S SOCIALIST EXPERIMENT.
THERE IS APPARENTLY ALSO A CURRENT OF FEELING AMONG
POLITICALLY ACTIVE SPANIARDS, PARTICULARLY IN THE
OPPOSITION BUT ALSO IN OTHER SECTORS, THAT THE U.S.
HAD SOME INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHILEAN COUP.
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